



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."
Sunday, March 1st, 2026 - 10:30 AM Service
Second Sunday in Lent



We welcome you, trusting that this time of worship will open our hearts to experience the Spirit's movement among us. Together, we seek peace, health, and wholeness as we gather in God's presence.

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**Indicates a standing portion of the service. Please stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

Gathering Music

"Like a Good Neighbor"
by The Rance Allen Group

Molly MacMillan, piano

Greetings & Welcome

Centering Music

"Adagio"
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Molly MacMillan, piano

***Call to Worship**

Tell me something good!

God loves you more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

This is good news indeed!

Let us worship our compassionate God.

***Opening Hymn**

"Wideness in God's Mercy"

UMH #121

***Passing the Peace**

PROCLAIMING

A Message for All God's Children

Pastor Alicia Wood

Call to Confession

Pastor Alicia Wood

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

Did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?

Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?

Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?

Or did we cross the street?

**Did we avert our eyes?
Did we come up with every excuse in the book?
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming
love that you have for them.
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love.
Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us.

So join me in this good-news declaration:

We are seen.

We are forgiven.

We are invited to try again.

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Special Music

**"Carry the Light"
by Andy Beck**

Chancel Choir

Scripture

Luke 7: 36-50

Karen Kaufmann

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

Thanks Be to God!

Message

"The Good News Is...A Great Love"

Pastor Alicia Wood

***Hymn of Response**

"As a Fire is Meant for Burning"

FWS #2237

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

**"Morning Prayer"
by Stephen Schwartz**

Molly MacMillan, piano

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Alicia Wood

Holy Communion

GOING FORTH

Announcements

***Affirmation of Faith**

Jami Breedlove-Crouch

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter
and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love
and feels like a seat at the table,**

so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.
And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who
welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who
cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.
I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“Take My Life & Let It Be”

UMH #399

*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

“For Good”
by Stephen Schwartz

Molly MacMillan, piano

-----PRAYERS-----

For Prayer Chain Requests, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

Prayer Requests: We thank God for the healing in the lives of people we've been praying for. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain or the Prayer List, contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org. Your requests will be listed in the bulletin for one month before being deleted. Please let us know of your improved condition or if you desire visitation.

St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of March 1st, 2026

Sunday, March 1st

10:30am – Worship with Communion– Sanctuary
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room
11:45am – Connections Young Adult Group – Durham Room
4:00pm – OPUS Community Concert - Sanctuary

Monday, March 2nd

7:00pm – Lenten Bible Study “The Last Supper” - ZOOM

Tuesday, March 3rd

10:00am – Staff Meeting – ZOOM

Wednesday, March 4th

9:45am – Coffee w/the Pastor – Durham Room
7:00pm- Staff Parish Relations Committee - ZOOM

Thursday, March 5th

11:00am – Crafters Group – Durham Room
6:00pm – Festival Chimes - Sanctuary
7:15pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Dining Room

Friday, March 6th

Church Offices Closed

Saturday, March 7th

Sunday, March 8th – Daylight Savings Time Begins

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary
10:45am – Faith Explorers - Rm. 115, Main Floor
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room

Children and Worship – Children are always welcome in worship! To help keep small hands busy, we have books and toys on the black cart near the main sanctuary door. ***Children ages 4 through 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship (except on Communion Sundays).***

Please Fill Out Important Short Survey

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is initiating a survey to assess how our Pastor Transition is going so far. This is something the Annual Conference encourages congregations do several times during a new pastor's first year. We value your feedback and would appreciate your taking a few minutes to complete a short survey found on a table just outside the sanctuary. If you prefer to email your responses, email Pam Lillard (psl1@cornell.edu) or Ann Bohman (akbohman@gmail.com) from your SPRC Team. Thank you!

Announcing Two Small New Groups

St. Paul's is starting two new small groups, each with a different focus and leadership. The groups plan to meet monthly, though a regular meeting date and time will not be decided until the group forms and they decide together. Details and whom to contact can be found in your Friday email. **Please join up by Friday, March 13th if possible.**

Learn More About Native American Struggles

St. Paulians are invited to learn first-hand about struggles facing our Native American neighbors at a Community Q&A Meeting hosted by the Gayogo'ho:no' Traditional Clan Families at the Quaker Meeting House (120 Third Street, Ithaca) on **Friday March 6, 6-9 p.m.** In person, or by Zoom; contact Debra Dahl at landofdawes@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Volunteers Needed to Help with Folding/Labeling Newsletter

We need a few volunteers the morning of **Wednesday, March 4th at 9am** to help with labeling the Spring 2026 Newsletter. It usually takes less than an hour. If you can help, contact Dee at office@stpaulsithaca.org.

Lent 2026 Schedule

**Please Note: Lenten Bible Study meets every Monday at 7pm via Zoom; Lenten Wednesday Devotional meets every Wednesday at 9:45am in the Durham Room.*

Sunday, March 28th: Palm Sunday Service 10:30am – Sanctuary

Thursday, April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Service 7pm – Sanctuary

Friday, April 3rd: Good Friday Service 7pm – Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

TBD - Sunrise Service - Tenney's

10:30am – Easter Sunday Service w/Communion - Sanctuary

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 121



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good!
3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we should rest up-on God's word;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.



WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854
MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

WELLESLEY
87.87

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

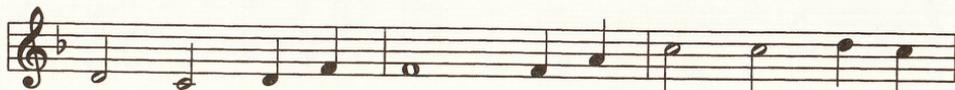
2237



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing with a bright and warm - ing
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; we are pil - grims on the
3. As a green bud in the spring - time is a sign of life re -



flame, so the church is meant for mis - sion, giv - ing
way. We are seek - ers; we are giv - ers; we are
newed, so may we be signs of one - ness 'mid earth's



glo - ry to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or
ves - sels made of clay. By our gen - tle, lov - ing
peo - ples, man - y hued. As a rain - bow lights the



cus - toms, but to build a bridge of care, we join
ac - tions we would show that Christ is light. In a
heav - ens when a storm is past and gone, may our



hands a - cross the na - tions, find - ing neigh - bors ev - ery - where.
hum - ble, lis - tening Spir - it we would live to God's de - light.
lives re - flect the ra - diance of God's new and glo - rious dawn.

Take My Life, and Let It Be

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly,
 3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no

Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days;
 for my King. Take my lips, and let them be
 long - er mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;

let them flow in cease - less praise. Take my hands, and
 filled with mes - sag - es from thee. Take my sil - ver
 it shall be thy roy - al throne. Take my love, my

let them move at the im - pulse of thy love.
 and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold.
 Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea - sure - store.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.
 Take my-self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.